



PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 17, 1997

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**William F. Caton, Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222, 1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554**

**Re: Joint Petition for Stay filed by Southwestern  
Bell Corporation, Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell,  
CC Docket No. 96-45**

**Dear Mr. Caton:**

We are writing in response to the Joint Petition for Stay of the FCC's Report and Order issued on May 8, 1997, on Universal Service. We oppose the stay because it would thwart the extensive efforts that our State has already undertaken and continues to undertake to implement the Order.

In January of 1997, in anticipation of the FCC Order, our Commission established an inter-governmental private/public task force to examine all aspects of universal telephone service for our state. There are thirty-five (35) representative organizations participating on the Task Force. Our State's Office of Administration (on behalf of the Governor); State Department of Education, Public Utility Commission and Pennsylvania Rural Development Council have been coordinating our efforts as the involved public agencies with interested representatives of both the customer group (schools, libraries and health care providers) and service providers.

We are investing a substantial commitment of time, resources and energy to make sure that our State has in place the appropriate administrative infrastructure to assure that our schools, libraries, health care providers and service providers will be able to fully participate in each of these programs. The affected customers are undertaking substantial efforts to conduct technology assessments, review and update technology plans and develop requests for services. All of these efforts will be substantially frustrated if a stay is imposed. Moreover, we have state general funds appropriated to schools and libraries under the auspices of the "Link to Learn" program which may be used to leverage the schools and libraries' applications to the federal universal service support programs. The opportunity to coordinate the use of the federal and state funds may be lost if a stay is imposed.

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**William F. Caton**

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We recognize that the implementation of these universal service support mechanisms requires a coordinated partnership among the states and the FCC and other federal governmental entities such as Department of Education and National Telecommunications Information Administration and members of Congress. It would be regrettable if the opportunity to advance the use of educational technology and to facilitate more efficient and cost effective delivery of health care was lost due to a stay.

We recognize that the FCC was required to balance competing goals, objectives and interests of various parties in developing its Order. However, any concerns that parties have with respect to the Order may be taken up in due course, rather than stop the Order in its tracks because of a difference of opinion over whether the outcomes are reasonable. We urge the FCC to deny the Joint Petition for Stay.

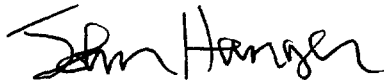
**Respectfully,**



**JOHN M. QUAIN**  
Chairman



**ROBERT K. BLOOM**  
Vice Chairman



**JOHN HANGER**  
Commissioner



**DAVID W. ROLKA**  
Commissioner



**NORA MEAD BROWNELL**  
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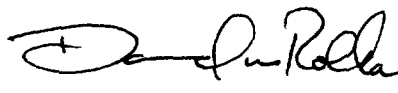
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